

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 23, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2008

SENATE BILL

No. 1629

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

(Principal coauthor: Senator Romero)

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Huffman, Laird, and Nunez)

February 22, 2008

An act to add Article 14.5 (commencing with Section 8300) to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to state preschool programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1629, as amended, Steinberg. State preschool programs: Early Learning Quality Improvement System Commission.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer state preschool programs, including part-day and preschool appropriate programs for prekindergarten children 3 to 5 years of age, inclusive, in educational development, health services, social services, nutritional services, parent education and participation, evaluation, and staff development.

This bill would establish the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Commission to develop a framework for improving program quality and a graduated funding framework that identifies necessary resources. The commission would consist of 22 members. The commission would be required to develop the policy and plan for an

Early Learning Quality Improvement System, and would be required to submit a report on its recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2009. The bill would require the State Department of Education to provide staff to support the commission, and would require the Superintendent to apply to the California Children and Families Commission for funding to cover costs. The bill would specify that the Early Learning Quality Improvement System may be phased in at the discretion of the Legislature as funds are made available. The bill would become operative only if AB 2759 of the 2008–09 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2009.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Research shows that experiences in the earliest stages of life
- 4 play a critical role in the ability of a child to grow up healthy and
- 5 ready to learn.
- 6 (b) Research shows that preschool is a proven investment in the
- 7 academic success of children and their success later in life. A
- 8 high-quality preschool system would benefit California children,
- 9 the state's systems of public and higher education, its families and
- 10 students, and its economy overall.
- 11 (c) Effective preschool provides eager young learners with early
- 12 academic and social skills that prepare them for later learning.
- 13 Developing these skills requires developmentally appropriate,
- 14 intentional instruction from skilled teachers who build on the earlier
- 15 learning experiences, *including the cultural and linguistic assets*,
- 16 of a child and support the development of the whole child.
- 17 (d) California has a long history, dating back to the end of World
- 18 War II, of the State Department of Education providing preschool
- 19 and child development programs.
- 20 (e) Unfortunately, too many children are turned away from
- 21 preschool, and the children who lack access to preschool are
- 22 disproportionately children of color, children whose home language
- 23 is not English, and children whose parents did not graduate from
- 24 high school. Research has shown that only one-half of all eligible

1 children in California are enrolled in a state preschool or the federal
2 Head Start program.

3 (f) According to the National Institute of Early Education
4 Research, California's state preschool programs meet only four of
5 10 benchmarks for quality preschool. A vast body of research
6 shows that only high-quality preschool results in the child outcomes
7 and cost benefits widely attributed to preschool.

8 (g) Making the necessary investments to expand the state's
9 preschool system while the state faces a budget shortfall will be
10 difficult, but important steps can be taken now to put in place the
11 framework for a high-quality preschool system upon which future
12 expansion can be built.

13 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish the Early
14 Learning Quality Improvement System Commission to develop a
15 framework for improving program quality and a graduated funding
16 framework that identifies the necessary resources for programs to
17 achieve and maintain higher quality, and the support and
18 opportunity for teachers to reach higher levels of education. The
19 graduated funding framework shall promote the preservation of
20 existing State Department of Education child care and development
21 programs. Throughout its work, the commission shall consider
22 how to support high-quality early learning experiences for children
23 from birth to five years of age, including existing State Department
24 of Education child care and development programs.

25 SEC. 3. Article 14.5 (commencing with Section 8300) is added
26 to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education
27 Code, to read:

28
29 Article 14.5. Early Learning Quality Improvement System
30 Commission
31

32 8300. (a) The Early Learning Quality Improvement System
33 Commission is hereby established in the state government. The
34 commission shall consist of 22 members as follows:

35 (1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, who shall chair
36 and convene the commission, or his or her designee.

37 (2) The Secretary of Education or his or her designee.

38 (3) The President pro Tempore of the Senate or his or her
39 designee.

40 (4) The Speaker of the Assembly or his or her designee.

1 (5) The Chairperson of the California Children and Families
2 Commission or his or her designee.

3 (6) The President of the University of California or his or her
4 designee.

5 (7) The Chancellor of the California State University or his or
6 her designee.

7 (8) The Chancellor of the California Community College system
8 or his or her designee.

9 (9) The Chairperson of the California Commission on Teacher
10 Credentialing or his or her designee.

11 (10) The Director of the Department of Social Services or his
12 or her designee.

13 (11) The Governor shall appoint four representatives from the
14 early care and education community including ~~(A) at the following:~~

15 (A) At least one appointee who is a preschool teacher and is
16 employed by a private licensed child care provider, and ~~(B) at~~
17 ~~provider.~~

18 (B) At least one appointee who is a program administrator of a
19 ~~preschool~~ child development program funded by the department
20 and is employed by a local educational agency.

21 (C) At least one appointee who is an infant-toddler caregiver.

22 (12) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint an early care
23 and education teacher who is employed by a local educational
24 agency.

25 (13) The Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint a ~~preschool~~
26 ~~child development~~ program administrator who is employed by a
27 private agency operating a child development program funded by
28 the department.

29 (14) The Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee
30 on Rules shall each appoint one representative from each of the
31 following communities:

32 (A) Public schools that provide instruction in kindergarten and
33 grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

34 (B) Experts in the needs of English learners.

35 (C) Parents *or guardians* of children who are enrolled in early
36 care and education programs funded by the state.

37 (b) The commission shall seek expertise from persons in the
38 following areas: early care and education; English language
39 development, including primary and secondary language
40 acquisition; exceptional needs and disabilities; infant and toddler

1 care; consumer education; parent and guardian engagement;
2 workforce development; facilities development; technical
3 assistance; and ~~local~~ *other state and local early learning* quality
4 improvement systems.

5 (c) The commission shall meet no less frequently than each
6 quarter of the fiscal year and at the call of the chairperson at a time
7 and location convenient to the public, as the chairperson may deem
8 appropriate. All meetings shall be open to the public in accordance
9 with Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of
10 Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

11 (d) The appointed members of the commission shall serve at
12 the pleasure of their appointing authority.

13 (e) The members of the commission shall be entitled to
14 reimbursement for expenses and members appointed pursuant to
15 paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) shall be entitled to a per diem of
16 one hundred dollars (\$100) per day.

17 (f) The commission may establish subcommittees and other
18 methods for engaging ~~stakeholders and the public~~ *stakeholders*.
19 *The commission shall seek public input* in order to create
20 opportunities for broad-based input and the exchange of viewpoints
21 and ideas.

22 8301. (a) The commission shall develop the policy and
23 implementation plan for an Early Learning Quality Improvement
24 System for the state and shall submit a report containing its
25 recommendations for the creation of an Early Learning Quality
26 Improvement System to the Legislature and the Governor by
27 December 31, 2009. The report shall address, but need not be
28 limited to, the following ~~four~~ *three* elements of a quality
29 improvement system:

30 ~~(1) The development of a preschool quality rating system. The~~

31 *(1) An assessment and analysis of the existing early care and*
32 *education infrastructure including an identification of the strengths,*
33 *gaps, and barriers to achieving higher quality early learning*
34 *programs. This analysis shall identify strategies that support and*
35 *build upon the existing and future diversity of the early care and*
36 *education workforce, so that it reflects the cultural and linguistic*
37 *diversity of the children of California, and ensures that the existing*
38 *workforce has the opportunity and support to meet the levels of*
39 *education qualifications recommended by the commission, while*
40 *also meeting the diverse needs of California's young children.*

(2) *The development of an early learning quality rating scale for child development and care programs, including preschool, that serve children from birth to five years of age, including preschool age inclusive, children and infants and toddlers. The commission shall consider consumer awareness so that parents receive accurate information about the type of program in which their children are enrolled. The commission also shall consider, but need not be limited to, the following features of high-quality preschool high quality programs:*

(A) Developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate practices.

(B) Staff qualifications and professional development and education needs.

(C) Staff compensation and retention.

(D) Group size and ratios.

(E) Learning environment.

(F) Statutory and regulatory compliance, including provisions of Title 5 and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations relating to child care and development.

(G) Articulation ~~with~~ *within* systems of care for children from birth to five years of age, and with the K-12 public school system.

(H) The inclusion of children with exceptional needs and children with disabilities.

(I) English learner support.

(J) Family involvement.

(K) Comprehensive health and development screenings using standard tools.

(L) Data collection and methods to support continuous quality improvement.

(M) Program management and leadership.

~~(2)~~

(3) *The development of a graduated funding model aligned with the quality rating-system scale that provides the necessary resources for preschool programs to achieve higher quality levels, and that supports continuous program quality improvement.*

~~(3) An assessment and analysis of the existing early care and education infrastructure including an identification of the strengths, gaps, and barriers to achieving higher quality early learning programs. This analysis shall identify strategies that support and build upon the existing and future diversity of the early care and~~

1 education workforce, so that it reflects the cultural and linguistic
2 diversity of the children of California, and that ensure the existing
3 workforce has the opportunity and support to meet the levels of
4 education qualifications recommended by the commission, while
5 also meeting the diverse needs of California's young children.

6 ~~(4) The development of strategies for addressing children from~~
7 ~~birth to five years of age within the Early Learning Quality~~
8 ~~Improvement System.~~

9 (b) The commission shall conduct no less than four public
10 hearings in different parts of the state to ensure that the commission
11 obtains meaningful public input prior to submitting its report to
12 the Governor and the Legislature.

13 8302. The State Department of Education shall provide staff
14 support to the commission.

15 8303. No General Fund expenditures shall be required to fund
16 the work of the commission. The commission shall be established
17 only after the Superintendent applies to and obtains funds from
18 the California Children and Families Commission or other sources.
19 The Superintendent shall apply to the California Children and
20 Families Commission for funding to cover commission costs,
21 including, but not limited to, staff support, travel expenses, and
22 per diem costs.

23 8304. The Early Learning Quality Improvement System may
24 be phased in at the discretion of the Legislature as federal, state,
25 or local public funds are made available.

26 SEC. 4. This act shall become operative only if Assembly Bill
27 2759 of the 2008–09 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted
28 and becomes operative on or before January 1, 2009.

29 SEC. 5. This act shall be binding upon the University of
30 California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of
31 California, by resolution, make it binding.